



1954

HELSTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G. D. K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

for the twelve months ending

31st DECEMBER, 1954.

H E L S T O N B O R O U G H C O U N C I L L

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1954

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Helston.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1954.

Section A, the statistical information on the Borough, it will be noticed that the rise in population continues as it has done annually since the war, in spite of an almost equal number of births and deaths. Clearly there is a good deal of immigration going on, which is neglected in the fact that there is still a long waiting list for houses. It has been stated that in the opinion of the Government the need for housing, except for rehousing from slum properties, should have come to an end in the Country. I do not think this opinion can be held in towns like this which are the subject of this annual increase of about 100 persons per year, which is, at 4 persons per house, equivalent to a building programme of 25 houses a year, irrespective of rehousing from unfit houses.

It will be noticed that sections B and C are included with both the Borough and the Surrounding Rural District. I have often felt that reports about infectious disease are meaningless unless applied over the whole area. In this connection it may be remembered that in 1953 Helston was the centre of a small epidemic of poliomyelitis, though no case was reported actually in the Borough. This was a case where the relationship of one local authority area to another was of great importance.

In general 1954 was a quiet year while we digested the meaning of the proposed legislation on Slum Clearance which it seems, may be the leading Public Health problem of the next 5 years.

I will now proceed to make my report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G.D.K. NEEDHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1. Statistics

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,017 acres
Estimated mid-year Home Population	...						5,820
Average number of persons per acre	...						1.44
Number of inhabited houses	...	...					2,030
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.50
Average number of persons per house	...						2.86
Ratable Value	...	...	...	...			£30,569
Product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...			£114. 10s. 6.

2. Live Births and Birth Rate

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	60	48	108
Illegitimate	3	1	4
Totals	63	49	112

1954 Birth Rate (Crude) ... 18.73 per 1,000 estimated population.

Using comparability factor 0.94

Holston 1954 Birth Rate ... 17.59 per 1,000 estimated population

England & Wales Birth Rate... 15.2 per 1,000 estimated population

Annual Rates	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
(Crude)	18.73	22.46	23.3	15.1	12.8

3. Stillbirths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	1	2	3

<u>Annual Totals</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
	3	2	3	-	3

4. Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age)

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate		3	-	3	
Illegitimate		=	=	=	
Totals		3	=	3	
<u>Annual Totals</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
	3	5	3	2	3.

5. Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under one year of age)

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate		5	-	5	
Illegitimate		-	-	-	
Totals		<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>	
<u>Annual Totals</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
	5	5	5	2	3

6. Maternal Mortality

Deaths attributable to pregnancy ... NIL.

7. Deaths and the Death Rate

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	61	44	105

1954 Death Rate (Crude) ... 18.05 per 1,000 estimated population

Using comparability factor 0.77

Holston 1954 Death Rate ... 13.89 per 1,000 estimated population

England and Wales Death Rate... 11.3 per 1,000 estimated population

<u>Annual Rates</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1950</u>
(Crude)	18.05	18.52	12.60	17.51	14.18

8. Specific Death Rate

Cardio-Vascular disease Death Rate - 10.48 per 1,000 estimated population

Respiratory Disease Death Rate - 1.83 per 1,000 estimated population

Cancer Disease Death Rate - 3.26 per 1,000 estimated population

9. Deaths from all causes in 1954

	<u>Males</u>	:	<u>Females</u>	:	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	:	-	:	1
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	-	:	-	:	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	:	-	:	-
4. Diphtheria	-	:	-	:	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	:	-	:	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	:	-	:	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	:	-	:	-
8. Measles	-	:	-	:	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	:	-	:	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	:	1	:	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	-	:	1	:	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	:	2	:	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	:	-	:	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	7	:	6	:	13
15. Leukaemia, Alukaemia	-	:	-	:	-
16. Diabetes	-	:	-	:	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	2	:	8	:	10
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	7	:	2	:	9
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	:	-	:	1
20. Other heart disease	24	:	17	:	41
21. Other circulatory disease	-	:	-	:	-
22. Influenza	-	:	-	:	-
23. Pneumonia	1	:	2	:	3
24. Bronchitis	6	:	2	:	8
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	:	-	:	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	:	-	:	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	:	-	:	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	:	1	:	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	:	-	:	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	:	-	:	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	-	:	-	:	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	:	2	:	8
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	:	-	:	-
34. All other accidents	1	:	-	:	1
35. Suicide	-	:	-	:	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	:	-	:	-
TOTALS	<u>61</u>	:	<u>44</u>	:	<u>105</u>

10. Population Growth

	<u>Registrar General's</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Birth & Death</u>
	<u>Estimated Figure</u>			<u>Rate</u>
1950 ...	5,220	67	74	- 7
1951 ...	5,601	85	97	- 8
1952 ...	5,706	133	72	+ 61
1953 ...	5,787	130	109	+ 21
1954 ...	5,820	112	105	+ 7

11. Comparative Birth and Death Rates for the Year 1954

Using Comparability Factors - Births ... 0.94 Deaths ... 0.77	Holston Borough	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs & Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County
<u>BIRTHS</u> (Rates per 1,000 Home Population)					
Live Births	18.73	15.2	15.2	14.9	15.2
Still Births	0.51	0.36	-	-	-
	26.08(a)	23.5(a)	23.3(a)	24.0(a)	19.8(a)
(a) per 1,000 live and still births					
<u>DEATHS</u>					
All Causes	13.89	11.3	11.1	11.3	10.7
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.17	0.18	0.20	0.18	0.20
Influenza	0.00	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.51	0.41	0.45	0.41	0.48

Comment

A further population increase of 33 brings the total increase over the past four years to exactly 600, which is 11.5% on the 1950 figure.

The excess of births over deaths this year was only 7, leaving an increase of 26 by immigration. Over the four years the total excess of births over deaths has been 70, while the population has increased by 600 which gives a total immigration of 533.

Births and the Birth Rate

The birth rate of 18.73 compared with the National Rate of 15.2 per 1,000 population remains fairly high even when amended to 17.59 to allow for population age group differences.

Still Births

The total of stillbirths seems to remain fairly constant year by year and is now accounting for about as many fruitless pregnancies as does all causes of death to children under one year.

Neo-Natal and Infant Deaths

Again, the figures vary little over the years, usually totalling 5 per year which gives a rate about equivalent to the National Rate. The figures, however, are based on so small a population that no comparisons can be made from them.

The Death Rate

This remains at the level attained last year and is somewhat about the National level. The chief cause of death was disease of the heart and arteries (61) followed by cancer (19) and respiratory disease (11).

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

This section covers both Kerrier Rural District and Helston Borough, as all services are shared alike between them, and certain services, such as Home Help and St. John Ambulance are specifically provided for both areas without distinction.

Hospital Services

Patients may be treated at Redruth Minors' and General Hospital, The Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, The Falmouth and District Hospital, the West Cornwall Hospital, Penzance, or Helston Cottage Hospital, depending on the needs and residence of the patient.

Tuberculosis inpatient treatment is centred at Tehidy Hospital, Camborne, and out-patient and contact clinics are held at Camborne, Falmouth and Penzance.

The Geriatric Unit is centred at Barncoose Hospital, Redruth, with annexes at Monage House, Helston and Budeck House, Falmouth.

Midwifery, Nursing and Health Visiting Services

Home Nursing and midwifery are undertaken by District Nurse/Midwives, who are also Health Visitors, with responsibility for the care of children up to school age.

District Nurse/Midwife/Health Visitors at present cover the following areas:-

Holston	Culdrose	Porthleven	Gormoo
Breago	Crowan	Sithney	Mabe
Budeck	Mawnan Smith	Wendron	Ruan Minor
Mullion	St. Keverne	St. Martin	Mawgan

Work done by Nursing Services in 1954.

	<u>Helston</u>	<u>Kerrier</u>
Domiciliary Confinements	61	164
School Medical Inspections	56	71
School Cleanliness Inspections	45	278
General Nursing Visits	2,858	21,902
Midwifery, Maternity, Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Visits	2,193	9,971
Casual Health Visits	3,202	7,675
School follow-up Visits	60	208
Tuberculosis Domiciliary Visits	25	-
Visits to Aged and Infirm	231	1,546
Infant Welfare Clinics	46	-
Diphtheria Immunization Sessions in Schools	4	31

Tuberculosis Domiciliary Visits by Tuberculosis Health Visitor -

To Patients	224	223
To Contacts	80	80

Infant Welfare Clinic

This is held weekly (Wednesday afternoons) at Moneago House, Holston, and is principally attended by mothers and children from the Borough itself, although some parents attend from further afield.

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Number of sessions held	51	51	51	49
Total attendances during the year	1,355	1,608	1,551	874
Average attendance per session ...	27	31	30	17
Highest attendance at any one session	35	49	58	28

2. Home Help Service

The Service is administered by the W.V.S. from the offices of Kerrier Rural District Council, and covers most of the area except some parts near Falmouth and in the north of the district nearer Camberne and Redruth, which are supplied with Home Helps from their respective nearest centres.

No. of Maternity cases supplied with domestic assistance	24
No. of hours Helps were employed in respect of above	1,830 $\frac{1}{4}$
No. of cases assisted owing to Illness in the Home	14
No. of hours Helps were employed in respect of the above	1,462 $\frac{1}{2}$
No. of cases assisted owing to Old Age and Infirmary	21
No. of hours Helps were employed in respect of the above	5,044 $\frac{3}{4}$

3. Welfare Foods

During the year the Ministry of Food suddenly announced its decision to cease the distribution of Welfare Foods, that is, dried milk, orange juice, cod liver oil and vitimin tablets.

The W.V.S. once again stepped into the gap and offered its services, where needed, to continue the supply of welfare foods. As a result we have been able to continue this work at the following places and times.

Moneago House, Holston	Tuesdays 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
Mawgan Cross, Holston	Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
Trelawney, Gunwalloe	Fridays 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Brick Cottage, The Lizard	1st and 3rd Mondays 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Choon Farm, Manaccan	Daily 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
The Pharmacy, Mullion	Daily.
Lyonosso, Mullion	Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (N.D.Milk only)
The Post Office, Broage	Daily.
Minor's (Chemists), Porthleven	Tuesdays 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. (Liquids only)
Medley's Stores, Fore Street, Porthleven ...	Tuesdays 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. (Milk only)
Virginia House, Trowenack	Tuesdays 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
The Post Office, Praa Sands	Daily.
The Bungalow, Poltesco Lane, Ruan Minor ...	Daily.
The Vicarage, St. Keverne	Daily.

4. Ambulance Service

The day cover for the district is provided primarily by the County Ambulance Service from the Redruth Depot, which operated 4 radio-controlled ambulances and 4 utilicons without radio. One additional utilicon is stationed at Gunwalloe and this is under wireless control from Redruth. The extreme eastern part of Kerrier, from Ponsanooth to Budock is under the care of the County Ambulances based on Falmouth.

By night, and at weekends, cover is provided by St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Holston Ambulance is on call for bulk of the area, but it is re-inforced as required by ambulances at Penzance, St. Ives, Hayle, Camberne, Illogan, Redruth and Falmouth.

The following table is a summary of the work carried out by the Helston St. John Ambulance during the year, in addition to other removals carried out by the County Ambulance Service. Comparison is made with the previous two years:-

Month	1 9 5 4		1 9 5 3		1 9 5 2	
	Patients Conveyed	Miles Covered	Patients Conveyed	Miles Covered	Patients Conveyed	Miles Covered
January	20	393	21	472	14	390
February	20	499	12	349	24	700
March	24	618	25	592	19	451
April	38	919	24	556	20	480
May	24	569	30	742	33	941
June	20	505	28	685	18	570
July	36	998	25	753	19	540
August	32	856	25	705	27	731
September	29	604	22	643	25	625
October	39	939	18	581	16	437
November	23	641	21	456	16	413
December	30	873	17	472	22	421
T O T A L S	335	8,414	268	7,006	253	6,699

5. Dental Services

These are provided by the County Council under the direction of a Chief Dental Officer. Each school is periodically visited, and when treatment is required arrangements are made for attendance at Moncage House, Helston, where dental clinic sessions are held weekly. Treatment is also provided at the clinic for pre-school children and nursing and expectant mothers when referred by the appropriate Medical Officer.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1. Notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year 1954 with comparative figures for the four preceding years.

Helston and Kerrier Districts (Combined)

Disease	1954			1953	1952	1951	1950
	Kerrier	Helston	Total				
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	1	8	37	49	14	9
Whooping Cough	131	42	173	12	24	108	98
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	1	-	1	393	8	554	77
Pneumonia	-	-	-	3	6	5	4
Acute Poliomyelitis							
Paralytic	-	-	-	1	-	2	9
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	1	-	8	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	2	2	4	1	-	1
Dysentery	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis							
Pulmonary	17	9	26	20	16	16	29
Non-Pulmonary	4	-	4	7	2	4	1

Infectious Disease Rates 1954 (per 1,000 estimated population)

Disease	Kerrier R. D.	Helston Borough	England and Wales
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	0.00	0.00	0.02
Scarlet Fever	0.32	0.17	0.97
Whooping Cough	5.91	7.21	2.37
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.05	0.00	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.05	0.00	3.31
Pneumonia	0.00	0.00	0.59
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis - Paralytic	0.00	0.00	0.03
Non-Paralytic	0.00	0.00	0.01
Food Poisoning	0.05	0.00	0.20
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.00 (a)	17.31 (a)	17.73 (a)
Dysentery	0.18	0.00	0.69

(a) per 1,000 live and stillbirths.

Comment

In general, the year was free from all infectious diseases except whooping cough. Most noticeable of all was the virtual absence of measles, a fact which makes it quite certain that 1955 will produce a large-scale measles epidemic. I have included a special survey of the spread of the whooping cough epidemic which may be of some interest.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid

The area was fortunately free from any case of either of these diseases during the year, but how long we can count on immunity from paratyphoid is doubtful, as it is known that a considerable amount of recently imported dried egg and egg albumen has been found to be fairly heavily contaminated with paratyphoid organisms, which have already been known to have caused outbreaks of paratyphoid in various parts of the country.

Scarlet Fever

A marked drop in notifications was observed in 1954 after a steady rise over the past four years. No cases were found to be connected with the supply of milk, which is known to be an occasional mode of spread of the disease.

Diphtheria

The area remained completely free of diphtheria once again, thus having remained free for the last 8 years. This proves, I think, the value of immunization of infants against the disease. Unfortunately, of course, a disease which is out of sight tends to be out of mind, and it is not easy to persuade parents to allow immunization of their children against the disease which is now so little in existence.

Fortunately, during the year it became possible to offer immunization against diphtheria combined in the same injection with protection against whooping cough, which is a far more present danger in the minds of parents of young children. We have thus been able to use the fear of whooping cough as a lever to bring about the acceptance of diphtheria immunization.

The immunization figures stand at present thus:-

Korrier Rural District

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Primary 1954</u>	<u>Refresher 1954</u>	<u>Total of immunized children.</u>
0.- 5 years	298	40	930
5 - 15 years	27	290	2,045
Totals	325	330	2,975

Estimated immunized 0 - 15 years = 68.5%

Winton Borough

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Primary 1954</u>	<u>Refresher 1954</u>	<u>Total of immunised children</u>
0 - 5 years	90	18	279
5 - 15 years	4	115	636
Totals	94	133	915

Estimated immunized 0 - 15 years = 79.6%

The fairly wide difference in the estimated immune population between rural and urban populations is to be expected, for many mothers in the Borough have their children immunized at welfare clinics, but would probably not seek immunization if there were no clinic, as is found in this rural district.

Smallpox

No smallpox epidemic was reported in the United Kingdom during the year. One person from an infected ship visited the rural district; he was found to be fully vaccinated and remained well.

The following vaccinations were carried out in 1954:-

Kerrier Rural District

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Primary Vaccination</u>	<u>Re-Vaccination</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 - 5 years	128	1	129
5 - 15 years	9	9	18
Over 15 years	<u>20</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>36</u>
Totals	<u>157</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>183</u>

Helston Borough

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Primary Vaccination</u>	<u>Re-Vaccination</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 - 5 years	69	1	70
5 - 15 years	4	7	11
Over 15 years	<u>4</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>20</u>
Totals	<u>77</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>101</u>

The disproportion between the two areas here is even greater than in the figures for diphtheria immunization. It is very much weighted by the fact that many of the vaccinations are on the children of Naval personnel who find it necessary to have their children vaccinated for travel purposes.

Whooping Cough

There was a fairly widespread outbreak of whooping cough during 1954 both in the Rural District and the Borough which is further reported below.

During the year the combined diphtheria/whooping cough vaccine was introduced, and the following number of children were immunized against whooping cough either separately or combined with diphtheria immunization.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Refresher</u>
Kerrier R.D.	284	47
Helston Borough	76	9

Spread of Whooping Cough in 1954

The table shows that the outbreak began in February in the Mawgan area, where 8 cases occurred. By March the focus had slipped to the Mullion area, and, significantly, one case in Helston was reported.

In April Helston and Portleven were the centres of infection, with new cases also in the Helford - Manaccan area. By May the infection was widespread, to the Mawgan area again, to Trewennack, Broage and Wondron: all of which, it will be noticed, are in a ring round Helston.

W H O O P I N G C O U G H 1 9 5 4

Month	St. Martin Mawgan Dry Tree	Mullion Cury	Helford Mamecan	St. Keverne	The Lizard Ruan Minor Cadwith	Helston	Porthleven	Trecwonnack	Lowertown	Broage Carleen	Praze Nancogollen	Wondron Porkellis	Gweek	Constantine	Rame Longdowne	Mabe	TOTALS
February	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
March	-	9	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
April	-	1	5	-	-	9	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
May	8	-	7	-	-	7	3	2	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	30
June	4	-	12	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	26
July	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
August	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
September	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
October	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
November	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
December	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
January	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	5	1	-	-	3	-	15
February	2	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	4	1	2	-	2	1	-	16
TOTALS	22	10	25	12	22	20	22	4	2	10	7	4	2	2	7	2	173

Spread of Whooping Cough in 1954 (continued)

By June the Holston-Porthleven outbreak had ended, but in addition to cases from Holford - Manaccan, Mawgan, and Trowennack, cases were reported from Lowertown, Praze, Gweek and Longdowns.

By July all these outbreaks had ended, except that in the Holford-Manaccan area and a new focus in St. Keverno. This St. Keverno outbreak continued through July, August and September, when it ceased.

Immediately subsequent to this, however, the outbreak appeared in the Lizard and Cadgwith area, where it continued throughout November, December 1954, and January, 1955.

During December and January a fresh outbreak occurred in the northern part of the district from Broage to Longdowns through Praze.

The pattern, then, was of two epidemics, one early in the year, chiefly in March, April, and May, and the second in December and January. The earlier one continued in and around Holston, and then worked its way round the Meneage peninsular via St. Martin, Holford, Manaccan, St. Keverno and Cadgwith to the Lizard. The later one occurred chiefly in Broage, Carleen, Nancegollen and Praze with a few cases in East Korrier.

It is curious that there should have been no direct spread from Holston to The Lizard but that the infection should have circled the whole peninsular before reaching The Lizard.

Tuberculosis

Age Distribution of New Cases and Mortality during 1954.

Korrier Rural District

Age	New Cases						Deaths					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
0 - 1 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 45 years	10	10	20	1	2	3	1	4	5	-	-	-
45 - 65 years	1	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
65 years and over	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
T O T A L S	14	12	26	3	2	5	3	4	7	1	-	1

Holston Borough

Age	New Cases						Deaths					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
0 - 1 year	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 45 years	3	1	4	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 65 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T O T A L S	5	4	9	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-

Tuberculosis (continued)

	<u>Korrier</u>	<u>Holston</u>
No. of Cases on Register at 31. 12. 54.	142	32
New cases notified	21	9
No. of cases transferred from other areas	11	1 *
No. of cases transferred to other areas...	10 *	2
Removed from Register as cured	5	1
No. died	8	1
New cases per 1,000 population	0.95	1.55
Death Rate per 1,000 population	0.36	0.17

* One from Korrier to Holston.

All the above cases were visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and all household and other contacts (i.e. at place of work, next door neighbours etc.) invited to attend for X-ray and examination at the Chest Clinic. The persons under 20 and parents of children exposed to risk and found susceptible are offered B.C.G. Vaccination for themselves or their children.

Contact Tracing 1954

	<u>Korrier</u>	<u>Holston</u>
Cases on Register	142	32
Contacts under 20	50	29
Refused Examination	-	-
Skin Tested	48	27
Awaiting Test at 31. 12. 54. ...	2	2
Results of Skin Test (Mantoux Tests)		
Positive (immune) ...	3	17
Negative (susceptible)	<u>45</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>48</u>	<u>27</u>

B. C. G. Vaccination of Negative reactors

Offered B.C.G.	45	10
Accepted B.C.G.	45	9
Refused B.C.G.	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>45</u>	<u>10</u>
Other B.C.G. Vaccinations of remote contacts	2	34
Total B.C.G. Vaccinations of contacts ...	47	43

The figures above show one very significant difference between Korrier and Holston; that is, in the results of the skin tests. In the rural district, of 48 household contacts tested only 3 (6%) had become immune by previous contact with the disease, whereas in the Borough, of 27 contacts 17 (59%) were immune. This difference is probably due to the much greater intermingling of infected with uninfected people in town life than in the country.

B.C.G. Vaccination of Schoolchildren

It has long been realized that almost all people who do not contract actual tuberculosis during their lifetime become immune to the disease by virtue of having had a slight infection of tubercle bacilli which they have overcome successfully. Once this process has been completed they are immune to further attacks of the disease in somewhat the same way as second attacks of diphtheria and whooping cough are unknown. A good indication of having successfully

B.C.G. Vaccination of Schoolchildren (continued)

attained this state of immunity is shown by the reaction shown by the skin to the injection into it of a minute amount of a certain substance. This is known as the Mantoux Test.

Prolonged experience in Europe from 1900 onwards by a number of scientists has finally provided a vaccine which can be injected into the skin and can give rise to immunity to tuberculosis without causing illness to the person so vaccinated, in the same way that smallpox vaccination will protect a person against smallpox without causing more than a slight discomfort.

It is felt that the group most likely to suffer severely from tuberculosis would be the young adult or adolescent, who, after leaving the relatively sheltered life of childhood and school, are suddenly brought face to face with a far wider range of people, many of whom may be actively tuberculous.

It has been decided, therefore, to offer B.C.G. vaccination to all children of 13 - 14 who are by skin test shown not to be immune to tuberculosis.

This system was introduced into Cornwall in 1954, and the results for the Holston and Kerrier areas for the year are as follows:-

Number of children in the age group	...	...	...	...	266
-------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Skin Testing

No. of children whose parents have refused investigation					47
No. of children awaiting investigation at 31. 12. 54.	...				6
No. of children skin tested	...	...	...	...	213
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>266</u>

Results of Skin Tests

Already immune	...	...	57
Not immune	...	...	156
Total	...	...	<u>213</u>

Vaccination

B.C.G. Vaccinated	...	154
Awaiting B.C.G. Vaccination		2
Totals	...	<u>156</u>

Level of Immunity in those tested

Out of the 213 children skin tested, only 57, or 26.7% had reached a stage where immunity could be assumed, and 73.3% (156) were still susceptible. 154 were then vaccinated leaving 2 to be vaccinated later.

Future Plan.

Each year this age group will be vaccinated and by this means it is hoped to prevent infection arising in young adults at the important stage of their lives when entering on marriage or a career.

It is also hoped that by preventing the disease from renewing itself every year in the younger generations, it can be confined to the older groups who have contracted it years ago, and so, gradually, that the disease will die out.

S E C T I O N D

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. G.D.K. Needham, M.R.C.S.,
L. R. C.P., D. P. H.

Surveyor & Chief Sanitary
Inspector - N. E. Whitby, Cert. S.I.B.
A.F.S.; M.R. San. I. A.M.I.
San.E., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector - W. T. Murphy, Cert. S.I.B.
A.R. San. I. M.S.I.A.

Clerk of Works - W. E. Dingle

Clerk - Miss. B. Brown.

The work of the department has shown a most remarkable increase in meat inspection, due to the slaughterhouse carrying on a very great export business in meat.

The Housing Survey has proceeded with good progress. The district was first inspected to ascertain those properties likely to fall within the scope of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, and each property has since been fully inspected.

Food premises, cafes, public houses, bakehouses and shops have also been inspected and an increasing number of premises are showing a greater interest in the hygienic handling of food. Housing is of necessity a slow job, but it is gratifying to see how many owners are now keenly interested in house improvements although low rentals and rateable values hinder the normal action under section 9 of the Housing Act 1936.

I am indebted to the keen interest all members of the staff have taken in the work of the department. In spite of the increased amount of work each has been called upon to deal with, it has been tackled with cheerfulness and an eager desire to see the job through; despite the increasing amount of overtime each member is called upon to render.

W A T E R

Public Water Supply

The Borough of Helston is supplied with water from the mains of the Helston and Porthleven Water Company, who carry out routine analyses of the supply.

Some of the farms and cottages in the rural parts of the Borough rely upon well supplies.

Samples for bacteriological examination were taken from the two wards with the following results:-

W A R D	SAMPLES SUBMITTED	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
HELSTON	2	2	-
PORTHLEVEN	2	2	-
TOTAL	4	4	-

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

During the year a sample was submitted from a private well with the following result;-

SITUATION	SAMPLES SUBMITTED	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
METHLEIGH MILL, PORTHLEVEN	1	-	1

S E W E R A G E

Helston

1. The sewerage system of this ward is in two sections. Sewage from the higher levels of the town is conveyed direct to the disposal plant by gravity.

Sewage from the lower areas is raised to the disposal plant by automatic pumps.

2. The sewage disposal works, is of modern design, and its capacity has recently been extended to cope with probable future development of the town. After primary filtration, settlement, and aeration the effluent is discharged into the River Cober. The sludge is digested and disposed of to local farmers.

3. Sampli. of effluent is carried out by Officers of the County Council who notify your officers of the results of analyses.

Porthleven

The sewage system has two main outfalls direct to the sea.

Work was commenced during the year on three 9" sewers to provide for new private and Council development.

F O O D

THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Registration of food premises, Section 14:-

1. COOKED MEATS, SAUSAGES ETC - two applications were received during the year for the manufacture of sausages and pickling of meat, both being registered.
2. ICE - CREAM - four applications for the retail sale of ice-cream were received and the applicants registered making a total of 26 premises now on the register.

There is one manufacturer in the Borough where the standard of hygiene is satisfactory.

ICE - C R E A M S A M P L I N G

A total of 15 samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination by the Methlene Blue Reduction Test, results were as follows:-

PRODUCED	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	GRADE 1	GRADE 2	GRADE 3	GRADE 4
In Borough	6	6	-	-	-
Outside of Borough	9	7	-	2	-
TOTAL	15	13	-	2	-

The two Grade III samples were of the pre-packed variety of ice-cream which would indicate unsatisfactory storage. Both samples were obtained from the same premises, which has now changed ownership.

S L A U G H T E R O F A N I M A L S A C T S 1933 - 1954

Nine persons are licensed to slaughter animals under the above Acts.

M I L K S U P P L Y

At the end of the year there were on the register:-

Dairies,..... 3
Distributors..... 6
Shops Registered for sale
of milk in sealed bottles... Nil

All distributors are licensed for the sale of designated milks until 31st December, 1955.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

Ten samples of milk were taken in the Borough during the year for examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Truro.

These were submitted for examination by the Phosphatase and Methylene Blue tests to determine efficiency of pasteurisation and keeping qualities respectively, with the following results:-

DESIGNATION OF MILK	METH. BLUE		PHOSPHATASE	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatis.
1. T. Tested	4	1	-	-
2. Pasteurised	5	-	5	-
3. T. T. Pasteurised	-	-	-	-
4. Ungraded	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	1	5	-

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

The work in connection with the sampling of milk for the fat and milk solids not fat content, is administered by County Council Officers.

MEAT INSPECTION

1. There is only one slaughterhouse in the Borough where slaughtering takes place, and which has been operated by a private company, since decontrol in July.

Although the Borough and some of the surrounding areas are served by the slaughterhouse, the greater majority of the output is "exported" to London, Torquay and Plymouth.

It will be seen from the particulars given in Table II that an enormous increase in the volume of slaughtering took place following decontrol.

As the whole of the meat inspection is carried out by two inspectors, it will be appreciated that a considerable amount of their time has been taken up by this very necessary task, necessitating much overtime, and interference with the housing survey.

2. The following particulars are given of the animals slaughtered:-

MONTH	COWS	BULLOCKS	SHEEP	PIGS	CALVES	TOTAL
JANUARY	25	40	171	98	46	380
FEBRUARY	29	34	183	172	39	457
MARCH	24	45	191	213	61	534
APRIL	27	67	77	274	72	517
MAY	27	62	112	95	40	336
JUNE	23	52	97	103	55	330
JULY	17	43	72	788	144	1064
AUGUST	15	58	186	2281	215	2755
SEPTEMBER	28	48	187	2859	301	3423
OCTOBER	17	62	150	3938	394	4561
NOVEMBER	80	65	158	4817	376	5496
DECEMBER	33	46	92	4797	261	5229
TOTAL	345	622	1676	20435	2004	25082

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	COWS	BOVINES	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS
Number Slaughtered	345	622	2004	1676	20,435
Number inspected	345	622	2004	1676	20,435
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</u>					
Whole Carcasses Condemned	4	3	8	9	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	120	216	1	84	891
Percentage of number inspected with Disease other than T.B.	35.9	35.2	0.4	5.5	4.4
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	33	14	3	-	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	71	54	-	-	736
Percentage of number inspected with T.B.	30.1	10.9	0.1	-	3.7
TOTAL QUANTITY CONDEMNED:-					
27 tons, 2 cwt, 3 qrs, 9 lbs.					

DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED MEAT

4. This is now voluntarily surrendered by the owners and so far has been disposed of to a reputable contractor. The meat and offal etc., is sterilised and prepared for manufacturing purposes by modern plant. No difficulty has so far been encountered regarding the safe disposal of condemned meat, but to avoid any possibility of such meat finding its way to the public, it would be most helpful if compulsory staining was reintroduced.

UN SOUND FOOD

The following unsound food was condemned and surrendered from the shops:-

Salmon	1 tin	Pinapples.....	16 tins
V. Plums.....	1	Condensed milk.....	6
Peas.....	7	Pears.....	5
Tomatoes.....	4	Sardines.....	1
Peaches.....	2	Rasberries.....	1
Apricots.....	2	Apricots.....	1
Loganberries.....	30	Grapefruit.....	1
Cherries.....	3	Baked beans.....	2
Vegetable soup.....	3	Fruit salad.....	6
Fruit cocktail..	1	Mandarins.....	3

I N S P E C T I O N O F F O O D P R E M I S E S

Canteens and Cafes.....	16	Butchers Shops.....	19
Grocers shops.....	62	Ice-cream dealers.....	36
Ice-Cream manufacturers.....	12	Bakehouses.....	17
Bakers and Confectioners.....	11	Greengrocers.....	15
Wet Fish Shops.....	5	Fried Fish Shops.....	15
Sweet shops.....	3	Dairies.....	40

M E A T P R O D U C T S

	Tins	Weight	
		lbs.	ozs
Sheep tongues	1	-	12
Luncheon Meat	5	6.	7
Corned Beef	9	43	8
St. Steak	5	4	13½
Jellied Veal	1	6	-
Beef Steak Pudding	1	1	-
Ham	1	13	4
Minced Beef loaf	1	-	12
TOTAL WEIGHT of Canned Goods 190 lbs 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.			
RAISINS (SEEDLESS) 560 lbs.			

F I S H

Kippers ...	3	stone
Herrings.....	3	stone
Haddock Fillets.....	1	stone
Cod Fillets	6	stone

M E T H O D O F D I S P O S A L O F U N S O U N D F O O D

Small quantities are destroyed under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, large quantities are removed to the Council's refuse tip.

H O U S I N G

1. The duties of the Council in relation to housing are divided between the Public Health and Housing & Planning Committees, and action is related to overcrowded, unfit and insanitary premises, and the provision of new houses.

2. During the year, the Housing Repairs and Rents Act came into operation with its added responsibilities on Local Authorities

The main provisions of the Act may be said to be as follows:-

- (i) to focus attention on and to accelerate slum clearance
- (ii) to permit an increase in rents where owners bring their property into good repair and maintain it in that condition
- (iii) to encourage owners to take advantage of the grants under the Housing Act 1949, by improving the facilities for those grants
- (iv) facilities are given to transfer the ownership of the slums in their eventide from the owners to the Local Authorities.

The principal power of the Act is as follows:-

within one year from the commencement of the Act (.i.e. 31st August, 1954) the Council have to submit to the Ministry of Local Government proposals for dealing in one way or another either by clearance or by demolition of single houses with those houses in the district which are unfit for human habitation, either by reason of disrepair or bad arrangement.

A copy of the approved proposals is to be available at the Council Offices for public inspection.

The provisions incorporated in Part 2 of the Act permitting owners to increase rent in certain circumstances, appear to have been little used in this area. Up to the end of the year not one application had been made for a Certificate of Disrepair.

The intention of the Act appears to have been defeated in this area, owing to the poor financial returns on the capital laid out on repairs,

The stopper, which allows an increase up to twice the gross value, will provide a rent of approximately 5/- per week for the bulk of cottage property, due to the extremely low rateable values of property prevalent in this district.

3. Quite a lot of good work has been done by the Council throughout the year under the provisions of the Housing Act 1949, regarding Improvement Grants, and extra life has been given to several older houses by this means.

4. The Housing Survey, required to be carried out under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, has been somewhat delayed by the heavy demands on the Council's Officers in meat inspection, caused by the enormous increase in slaughtering now taking place. It is hoped however that the Officer's reports and recommendations will be presented to the Council by the middle of July so that the Council will be able to formulate and phase its programme for slum clearance.

HOUSING ACT 1949 IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (AS amended by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954)

The new provisions with respect to grants, contained in the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, have no doubt helped and encouraged more owners to take advantage of the financial assistance available, to promote the improvement and conversion of older and sub-standard property.

During the year 14 grants were approved, and in all cases, useful and longer life has been given to the properties.

Regarding older houses which are structurally sound, but lacking in modern amenities, and where the owner is either unwilling or unable to bring them up to a reasonable standard of fitness, perhaps in one or two cases the Council could give consideration to purchase, and carry out improvement or conversion themselves, as an experiment in dealing with this problem in the future.

HOUSING ACT 1936

SECTION 9. - Insanitary houses capable of repair at reasonable expense:-

No notices were served under this section, but informal action resulted in 7 houses being rendered fit.

SECTION 11. - Insanitary houses incapable of repair at reasonable expense:-

NIL. Premises demolished other than by Orders under Section 11 - NIL.

SECTION 12. - Parts of premises closed..... 1
Whole premises closed (Housing Cons. Regs.1953). 4

SECTION 59 - Overcrowding

there has been action regarding this during the year.

Number of dwellings in the Borough:-..... 1355

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES:-

- 1. (a) Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (Public Health & Housing Acts)..... 224
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 500

2.	Number of dwellings found to be a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	15
3.	Number of dwellings (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	93
4.	Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.....	12
..	Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers.....	23
5.	Action under statutory powers during the year:-	
(A)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.....	Nil
(i)	Number of dwellings which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: .. By owner.....	Nil
	By Local Authority in default of owners.....	Nil
	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....	Nil
(B)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	3
(ii)	Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By Owners.....	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners.....	Nil
(C)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-	
(i)	Number of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made..	Nil
(ii)	Number of dwellings demolished in pursuance of demolition orders....	Nil
(D)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:-	
(i)	Number of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	1
(ii)	Number of underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the rooms having been rendered fit.....	Nil

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

SHOPS ACT 1950.	48	FACTORIES (N.P.).....	7
		FACTORIES (.W.P.).....	1

RODENT CONTROL

SURVEY.....	271	COMPLAINTS.....	87
		TREATMENT.....	159
HOUSING ACTS.....	313	PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.....	187
SEWAGE PLANT.....	208	REFUSE TIPS.....	202
SLAUGHTERHOUSE.....	536	COUNCIL HOUSES.....	266
BUILDING BYELAWS.....	358	MARKET.....	168
REFUSE COLLECTION.....	82	DISINFESTATION.....	15
SAMPLING (i) Ice-cream.....	18		
(ii) Water.....	3		
(iii) Milk.....	9	REHOUSING ENQUIRY.....	3

SUMMARY OF WORKS COMPLETED DURING 1954 AS A RESULT OF INFORMAL
NOTICES FOLLOWING INSPECTIONS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING

ACTS 1936:-

Drains repaired and/or cleansed.....	5	Accumulation of filth removed.....	3
W.C. Pans and seats repaired and renewed.....	7	Roofs and gutters repaired or renewed.....	14
Flushing apparatus repaired and renewed.....	11	R.W. pipes repaired and renewed.....	7
Soil pipes repaired and renewed.....	-	Dampness remedied.....	3
Chimney stacks repaired.....	4	Window frames, sashes and glazing repaired.....	7
Sinks renewed.....	2	Cills and reveals repaired.....	4
Waste pipes provided or repaired.....	5	Sash cords renewed.....	24
Yards paved, repaired and drained....	3	Fireplaces, ranges and flues repaired....	5
Dustbins provided.....	17	Floors repaired or renewed.....	4
Brickwork and pointing repaired.....	3	Staircases repaired.....	2
Walls and ceilings repaired and decorated (rooms).....	5	Doors repaired or renewed.....	-
		Ventilated food cupboards provided.....	12

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORKS COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR EXCLUDING THAT UNDER FOREGOING HEADING:-

House drain addition or re-construction.....	5	Vent pipes provided.....	4
Soil pipes provided.....	4	Baths provided.....	47
Waste pipes provided.....	47	Sinks provided.....	51
Dwellings provided with water..	34	Waste pipes repaired.....	98
Other sanitary works executed.....	19	Brickwork and pointing repaired.....	25

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The only method of refuse disposal in operation in the Borough is controlled tipping.

The two controlled tips at Porthleven and Gayes Hill Helston have been well maintained, although difficulty was experienced at one time in obtaining adequate quantities of suitable covering material.

Rodent Control is carried out frequently with satisfactory results.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

PREMISES	NUMBER ON REGISTER	INSPECTIONS	WRITTEN NOTICES	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED
(1) Factories in which Sections 1.2.3.4. & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities, Factories not included	26	7	-	-
(2) In (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.....	50	1	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	6	-	-	-
Cases in which defects were found.....				NIL

